

## Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2747

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 318

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DEPT ALSO PASS DOD

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF AUGUST 29, 1975

(SALT TWO-756)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON  
AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF AUGUST 29, 1975.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON

AUGUST 29, 1975

MR. MINISTER:

I

IN LIGHT OF THE STATEMENT YOU MADE ON THE SUBJECT IN OUR  
MEETING ON AUGUST 26, I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO  
DISCUSS FURTHER THE THINKING BEHIND OUR PROPOSAL FOR PARAGRAPH  
6 OF ARTICLE IV OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT. AS YOU KNOW, THIS PARA-

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GRAPH DEALS WITH THE OBLIGATION OF THE SIDES NOT TO HAVE UNDER

CONSTRUCTION AT ANY TIME SLBM LAUNCHERS, MOBILE ICBM LAUNCHERS, BOMBERS EQUIPPED FOR ASBMS, OR HEAVY BOMBERS IN EXCESS OF A NUMBER CONSISTENT WITH A NORMAL CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE.

II

OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED TO LIMIT THE STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS OF EACH SIDE TO AN AGGREGATE LEVEL OF 2400. OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO AGREED TO LIMIT MIRVED SYSTEMS TO AN AGGREGATE NUMBER NOT TO EXCEED 1320. IN ADDITION, AS YOU HAVE NOTED, THERE IS AGREEMENT AS TO WHEN STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS. IN PARTICULAR, THE SIDES HAVE AGREED THAT ARMS IN THE FINAL STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS. THESE PROVISIONS DO NOT, HOWEVER, REMOVE CONCERNS WHICH COULD ARISE IN THE EVENT THAT A SIDE WERE TO HAVE AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS IN A CONSTRUCTION STATUS SHORT OF THE FINAL STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION. THE SIDES HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH SUCH CONCERNS DURING THE COURSE OF PAST NEGOTIATIONS. IN FACT, SIMILAR CONCERNS RELATING TO THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WERE ADDRESSED BY A PROVISION OF THE PROTOCOL ON THE SCC PROCEDURES RELATIVE TO THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE OF BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES.

III

THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE CONCEPT EMBODIED IN PARAGRAPH 8 OF THE PROTOCOL ON THE SCC PROCEDURES IMPLEMENTING THE INTERIM AGREEMENT AS IT PERTAINS TO SUBMARINES LIMITED BY THAT AGREEMENT, SHOULD BE APPLIED TO ALL SYSTEMS LIMITED BY THE NEW AGREEMENT. PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT AGREEMENT OF THE SIDES TO SUCH AN UNDERTAKING HAS NOT INTERFERED IN ANY WAY WITH THE RIGHT OF THE SIDES TO MODERNIZE OR REPLACE BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT. INDEED, SUCH A PROVISION SOLVED THE PROBLEM ASSOCIATED WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR EXCESSIVE CONSTRUCTION OF SSBNS WITHOUT INFRINGING ON THE RIGHT TO MODERNIZE AND REPLACE THESE SYSTEMS. IT IS THIS PRECEDENT THAT WE HAVE USED IN DEVELOPING THE SAME CONCEPT FOR APPLICATION TO ALL OF THE SYSTEMS LIMITED BY THE NEW AGREEMENT.

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THE U.S. PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF ARTICLE IV IS NOT INTENDED TO INFRINGE UPON THE RECOGNIZED RIGHT OF BOTH SIDES TO DETERMINE THE COMPOSITION OF THEIR STRATEGIC FORCES OR TO MODERNIZE AND REPLACE THEIR STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. RATHER, THE INTENT OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL IS TO COMMIT BOTH SIDES NOT TO HAVE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT ANY ONE TIME A NUMBER OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS THAT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH

THE AGREED AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS.

IV

MR. MINISTER, I HOPE THAT THIS EXPLANATION OF OUR PROPOSAL  
WILL ASSIST YOU IN GIVING IT FURTHER CONSIDERATION. JOHNSON

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NNN

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